

Message Text

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FROM: LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH HEAD OF INDIAN LOS DELEGATION
JAGOTA

1. THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT, WHILE IMPORTANT ISSUES REMAINED FOR SOLUTION IN COMMITTEE II AND COMMITTEE III, THESE COULD BE SOLVED SOON AND THAT THE MAIN PROBLEMS WERE IN COMMITTEE I. HE INDICATED THAT THE US WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE UP THE DUAL-ACCESS SYSTEM OF EXPLITATION, THAT A QUOTA SYSTEM WAS OUTSIDE OUR NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY, AND THAT OUR POSITION ON VOTING IN THE COUNCIL WOULD BE VERY TOUGH. HE INDICATED THAT WE WOULD STUDY METHODS FOR MAKING THE ENTERPRISE MORE VIABLE, SINCE THAT SEEMED TO BE THE PRINCIPAL STUMBLING BLOCK FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE AREA IN WHICH HE FELT THEIR VIEWS WERE REASONABLE. THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT FOR THE MOMENT HE HAD NO SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS, BUT WISHES TO STUDY THEM HOPEFULLY BEFORE RETURNING TO NEW YORK IN A FEW WEEK.

2. DR. JAGOTA AVOIDED SUBSTANCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT COMPLAINED THAT THE REVISED SNT WAS PREPARED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF SECRECY AND WITHOUT FULL CONSULTATION WITH ALL DELEGATIONS. HE SAID HE FEELS THAT THE REACTION TO THE TEXT AND RESENTMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77

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IS NOW PAST ITS PEAK AND THAT THE GROUP OF 77 IS READY

FOR SERIOUS FINAL NEGOTIATIONS. HE IMploRED THE SECRETARY TO HAVE THE US AVOID THE THREAT OF UNILATERAL ACTION AS A TACTIC IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE IT TENDED TO HARDEN POSITIONS IN THE GROUP OF 77. HE PLEADED THAT THE BEST APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS OF COMMITTEE I NOW IS FOR ALL DELEGATIONS TO PUT THEIR CARDS ON THE TABLE AND WORK OUT FAIR AND EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS. HE REFERRED OBLIQUELY TO THE PROPOSAL HE HAD MADE TO THE UNITED STATES TEAM IN JULY OF A ROTATING OR STAGGERED-ACCESS SYSTEM IN WHICH NO SITE WOULD BE DEVELOPED BY STATES OR COMPANIES UNTIL THE CORRESPONDING SITES WERE DEVELOPED BY THE ENTERPRISE.

3. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT WE WOULD NOT USE THE THREAT OF UNILATERAL LEGISLATION FOR TACTICAL PURPOSES, BUT STRESSED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR DELEGATIONS TO SOBERLY ASSESS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF GREATER PROGRESS MOST URGENTLY NEEDED, SUCH LEGISLATION WAS INEVITABLE. THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT, IF OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES WERE MET IN COMMITTEE I, WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE FLEXIBLE, POSITIVE, AND CONSTRUCTIVE. HE HOPED THAT WE COULD NEGOTIATE THE SYSTEM OF EXPLOITATION FIRST SO AS TO IMPROVE THE CLIMATE AND ACCEPTABILITY OF THE REVISED SNT AND GIVE OTHER DELEGATIONS A MORE POSITIVE INCENTIVE FOR THE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF VOTING IN THE COUNCIL.

4. DR. JAGOTA DID NOT RAISE ANY SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES IN COMMITTEE I: AND THE OVERALL TONE OF HIS COMMENTS MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE BELIEVES THE GROUP OF 77 IS ENTITLED TO EXPECT THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE THE NEXT MAJOR MOVES IN THEIR DIRECTION. THOUGH HE WAS PLANLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE DUAL ACCESS SYSTEM, HIS REQUEST FOR US FLEXIBILITY IS INTENDED TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A RESTRUCTURING OF THE DUAL-ACCESS SYSTEM, PROBABLY IN THE DIRECTION OF HIS IDEAS OF STAGGERED OR ROTATING ACCESS.

5. COMMITTEE II: THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS BRIEF
DR. JAGOTA POINTED OUT THAT ON THE QUESTION OF THE
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HIGH-SEAS STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE, THE US WAS IN THE MINORITY. THE SECRETARY STRESSED THE NEED TO FIND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS, PERHAPS BY SPECIFYING THE RIGHTS OF STATES IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE. DR. JAGOTA OBJECTED TO THE US DEMAND THAT COMPULSORY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT APPLY IN THE ECONOMIC ZONE. THE SECRETARY DID NOT INDICATE ANY FLEXIBILITY ON THAT POINT. THE MEETING ENDED BEFORE COMMITTEE III ISSUES COULD BE DISCUSSED.

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